

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop 313(c)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir or Madam:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Enclosed herewith are patents and/or publications for consideration by the Patent and Trademark office in regard to the invention claimed in the above-described application. In compliance with §1.56, such documents are listed in the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

Applicants request that the Patent and Trademark office make of record the above-identified documents. A full text copy of each document is attached, except for copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications. For documents not in English, an English translation or an equivalent English language patent or publication may be attached. Where a translation is not available, a concise explanation of the relevance of each document not in English is included either here or in the specification or the relevance is indicated by the categories indicated by a foreign examiner in an enclosed search report from a foreign patent office (see MPEP Section 609A(3)).

This Information Disclosure Statement (hereinafter "Statement") is submitted according to the following selected paragraph:

I. Filed Before Examination

This Statement is being filed under §1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

II. A. Filed with Fee (without Certification) Before Final Action or Allowance

This Statement is being filed under §1.97(c)(2), with fee, **prior** to the mailing date of any Final Action, a Notice of Allowance or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. A check in the amount of the fee required by §1.17(p) is enclosed.

II. B. Filed with Certification (without Fee) Before Final Action or Allowance

This Statement is being filed under §1.97(c)(1), with a certification under, §1.97(e) prior to the mailing date of any of a Final Action, a Notice of Allowance or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. The undersigned hereby states that (check one):

each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

no item of information in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification under §1.97(e) after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

III. Filed with Both Fee and Certification After Final Action or Allowance and Filed Before or with Payment of Issue Fee

This Statement is being filed under §1.97(d), with fee and certification under §1.97(e), on or after the mailing date of either a Final Action, a Notice of Allowance (but prior to payment of the Issue Fee) or any Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. A check in the amount of the fee required by §1.17(p) is enclosed. The undersigned hereby states that (check one):

each item of information in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

no item of information in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification under §1.97(e) after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

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If there are fees due with this Statement that are for some reason incorrect or missing, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the correct amount from our Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Remarks

This IDS is filed with an RCE to make of record prior art including a Japanese Office Action issued in the parallel patent application, and references cited therein. This IDS is filed after a Petition to Withdrawal from Issue faxed to the USPTO on 27-Aug-08.

Respectfully submitted,

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